

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
(Held at the GACEC Fall Planning Retreat)
Friday, October 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center
Dover, DE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carma Carpenter, Cathy Cowin, Bill Doolittle, Ann Fisher, Terri Hancharick, Emmanuel Jenkins, Karen McGloughlin, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Beth Mineo, Robert Overmiller, Jennifer Pulcinella, Howard Shiber.

OTHERS PRESENT: Guests: Cindy Brown, Delaware Department of Education **Staff present:** Wendy Strauss, Executive Director; Kathie Cherry, Office Manager; Sybil Brown, Administrative Coordinator.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Cavalier, Nancy Cordrey, Karen Eller, Lisa Gonzon, Bernie Greenfield, Brian Hartman, Thomas Keeton, Sonya Lawrence, Dana Levy, Christ McIntyre, Carrie Melchisky, Bill O'Neill, and Brenn  Shepperson,

The meeting was called to order at 5:52 pm by Terri Hancharick in the absence of current GACEC Chairperson Dafne Carnright. Terri asked for a **motion** to approve the June meeting minutes. **A motion was made and approved.** A **motion** was made to accept the June, July, and August financial reports. **The motion was approved.**

Public comment: There were no public comments.

Chair/Director's Report:

Vice Chair Terri Hancharick called the meeting to order. She asked if everyone had a chance to view the June, July, August and September Financial reports as well as the June meeting minutes. There were no questions or corrections. A **motion was made** to approve as submitted, the **motion was approved.** The next order of business was approval of the meeting dates set for 2017-2018, including the retreat. A **motion was made and approved** to accept the dates as submitted. It was announced that GACEC staff had not yet received a final list of speakers from DOE so the potential speakers will be discussed at our November General Membership Meeting. Council members were asked to review the "Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Chairs" handout from their folder. The handout was read and the importance of the role was stressed. It was announced that committee chair and vice chair positions should be voted on in committees at the retreat with those names being submitted to staff at the conclusion of the retreat. A nominating committee will be formed in November for the Council Chair and Vice Chair positions. Wendy shared that our travel line in the budget decreased by 50% leaving us with no choice but to suspend mileage reimbursements. Reimbursements should still be submitted as usual, but they will not be paid monthly, rather at the end of the fiscal year any remaining travel

budget will be used to pay previously submitted claims until the funds are exhausted. Wendy shared with Council that she had an at length discussion with our Deputy Attorney General (DAG) regarding changes to Council bylaws. She shared that the conversation included areas such as adding sub-committees under our standing issues committees to be filled with individuals who are NOT Governor appointed members of the Council. The DAG felt that this was a good idea and saw no reason not to proceed. Discussion ensued about the issue. Wendy also indicated that she spoke with our DAG regarding updating the State Code to better reflect Council's role(s) and responsibilities under our State and Federal Mandate. Additionally it was mentioned that the DAG dislikes Roberts Rules of Order and recommended an alternative which Wendy could not bring to her recollection at the time. No decisions were made on by laws at this meeting. Wendy asked Council members to please take a close look at the acronym list in their folders and provide and updates that may have. The draft Council goals and activities were sent to members prior to the retreat. Members were asked if there were any additional comments on the activities. Bill Doolittle had submitted comments earlier and those comments were added to the draft. A **motion** to approve the goals and activities for the 17-18 FY as submitted was **made and approved**. The meeting dates for FY 2018 were presented and a **motion** to approve as submitted was **made and approved**. Robert Overmiller was asked to give an update on the School District Consolidation Committee. He shared that there have been a total of eight meetings, including two full committee meetings and several meetings of sub committee's such as; Finance, Structure, Education Programs and Teaching and School Staff sub committees. The Structure subcommittee has selected five key consolidation plans to study and the Finance subcommittee has found \$2 million dollars in savings with consolidations. Finally Robert shared that there are two upcoming meetings one on October 16 at William Penn High School in New Castle County at 6:30pm and one at Caesar Rodney High School in Kent County on October 25, also at 6:30pm. Robert encouraged council members to check the public meeting calendar for future dates and to attend any meetings that they are able to. Robert was thanked for his update and a **motion was made and approved** to adjourn for dinner.

The meeting reconvened at 7:45 with the introduction of Mary Ann Mieczkowski from the Department of Education (DOE) Exceptional Children's Workgroup. Mary Ann gave her DOE report which is highlighted below for your reference.

Terri and Wendy thanked MaryAnn for her report. A **motion was made and approved** to adjourn for the evening. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with instructions for member to reconvene in the meeting room on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday when breakfast will be served.